

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

# Basham Press Release

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## Basham Honors Local Smoke-Free Restaurant

*Silver Spoon Provides Healthy Dining and a Healthy Workplace*

ALLEN PARK—Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor), along with the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and American Lung Association of Michigan paid tribute today to Ziad Nakad, owner of Silver Spoon Restaurant, to commemorate the restaurant's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary and praise its smoke-free environment.

"Secondhand smoke is a serious danger to workers, customers, and our economic security," said Basham. "Mr. Nakad and his restaurant not only provide a sanctuary for local residents looking to enjoy a nice meal without putting their health at risk, but also illustrate that such smoke-free measures do not lead to an economic downfall."

Mr. Nakad arrived in the United States in 1993 at the suggestion of his brother, and started working in his uncle's restaurant busing tables. Pursuing the American dream of entrepreneurship, he worked his way up in the business, owning restaurants in Southfield and Plymouth before taking on the challenge of renovating the Silver Spoon Restaurant in Allen Park. After five years of operation, the Silver Spoon has become known for its smoke-free environment, award-winning soups, and outstanding customer service.

"I am truly honored to host Senator Basham today," said Nakad. "I have worked very hard to make my restaurant an important part of this community, and to do what I can to return my gratitude for their support. A healthy place to eat and work is part of that."

Everyday, thousands of Michigan residents who patronize or work in restaurants and bars are involuntarily subjected to second-hand smoke, and the consequences are far-reaching. According to a June 2006 report by the U.S. Surgeon General, nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke at home or work increased their risk of developing heart disease by 25-30 percent and lung cancer by 20-30 percent. The report went on to state that even the most sophisticated ventilation systems

cannot completely eliminate secondhand smoke exposure and that only smoke-free environments afford full protection.

Since 2000, Senator Basham has been championing an effort in the Michigan legislature to ban smoking in public bars and restaurants. He has traveled the state garnering support for his legislation, SB 394, which has not been taken up for a vote by the Senate Government Operations Committee.

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